Report of the OTF International Assistance Committee to the OTF Board of Governors’ Annual Meeting, August 21, 2018

# Terms of Reference

1. To assist and encourage teacher organizations, with the possibility of enabling teachers to see different types of organizations.
2. To provide scholarships or grants to assist students to obtain teacher training in their own countries.
3. To assist and encourage teachers from developing countries:
* who will be teaching in their own countries;
* who have been sponsored by their own teacher organizations to obtain a special goal;
* who are pursuing further education in (a) Ontario or (b) another part of Canada.
1. To assist schools in developing countries.
2. To offer hospitality and friendship to students in Canada from other countries.
3. To advise OTF on matters relating to international educational assistance through liaison with provincial, federal and international agencies.
4. To screen requests for aid from the Blanche E. Snell Fund and to allocate moneys in this fund.

## Summary of Year’s Work and Project Priorities

At the time of writing this report, the world stands watching, cautiously optimistic, as the rescue operation to free 12 boys and their soccer coach from flooded caves in Thailand is underway. So far, seven boys have been confirmed rescued, with an eighth reported to be on his way out. The rescue team, led by two outstanding British expert cave divers, consists of volunteer divers from several countries and Thai Navy SEALs. There are medical personnel from Australia, engineers from Elon Musk’s SpaceX and Boring Co., Israeli emergency communications technology experts, and a throng of other international volunteers from countries as far away as Denmark, Germany, Finland Canada and the United States, who have rushed to offer their services. It is this incredible coming together of brave and selfless people from across the globe that inspires us and reminds us of why we do the work we do in international assistance.

Governors who have been around for a few years will know that the annual report of the International Assistance Committee almost always includes a reference to at least one film or book that has resonated with the work undertaken by the Committee members in the course of their duties. Last year, our focus was on the film *Lion*. As you may recall, *Lion* is based on Australian businessman Saroo Brierley’s 2013 autobiography, *A Long Way Home*, and recounts the story of how a 5-year-old boy gets lost in the massive railroad system of India, is then adopted by an Australian couple, and eventually journeys back to the sub-continent 25 years later to find his home and birth family. The images of child poverty and child labour laid bare in *Lion* underscored for us the tremendous need for international aid in India. Unfortunately, substantive changes to the Indian banking system and to the laws governing foreign aid contributions to NGOs that came into effect last year rendered it almost impossible for us to reliably transfer funds there without incurring disproportionately high banking fees. We were therefore obliged to take the very difficult decision in April 2017 of temporarily suspending all grants to India, until such time as we could find a way of ensuring that the funds allocated could be successfully transferred to, and received by, the deserving projects.

Over the past year, staff at OTF spent time seeking out organizations that could potentially assist us in this important objective. By the time the Committee met in December 2017, in spite of the large number of contacts made (including through the Canadian Teachers’ Federation (CTF) and Education International (EI)), we had still not found a viable option for resuming funding to India. And then, with the warming spring weather, we found our own Saroo Brierly to help us find our way back to the subcontinent. In April, we were contacted by two organizations that told us they were successfully flowing funds to NGOs in India:

1. GivenGain Foundation is a non-profit organization based in Switzerland, with offices in Switzerland, the UK and South Africa. Individual NGOs sign up for a free space on the GivenGain website and their location and charitable status is verified before donors are able to pledge funding to them. See <https://www.givengain.com/about/foundation/> .
2. Deva Kirubai Social Help Association (DKSHA) is an NGO based in India, led by Isaac Arulappan. It is supported by Rotary International and has successfully received ongoing funding since 2011 from Canda Helps, a registered Canadian charity. See <https://www.dksha.org/> .

While both organizations were of interest to us, it became clear that DKSHA had two main advantages: Firstly, it has a trusted Canadian contact through which funds can be flowed without incurring bank fees, but secondly, and just as importantly if not more so, it has a dedicated administrator on the ground in India in the person of Isaac Arulappan, who can research the authenticity of the applicants whose projects are submitted to OTF for funding consideration.

Isaac recently was in Toronto as a guest of Rotary International, and we took the opportunity to meet with him. Like Saroo Brierly in *Lion*, Isaac was orphaned at an early age, and placed at St. John’s Boys’ Town Orphanage in 1975. Unlike Saroo, he had lost both parents by the time he was 10 years old. Once he graduated from high school, he pursued vocational training, and then applied all that he had learned so that he could give back every cent he had ever received from the orphanage by working there for five full years for free. Isaac then went on to create and raise funds for his own orphanage and the NGO Deva Kirubai Society Help Association (DKSHA). Rotarian Stan Smith sent us this description of DKSHA’s work and Isaac’s many accomplishments:

*The Cornerstone Orphanage opened in 2004.* *In the beginning Isaac’s dream translated into a small thatched house, setting on 1.5 acres, with 5 children. Today DKSHA cares for 81 orphans and vulnerable children. It has also acquired 6.5 additional acres and has a total staff of 32 (full 8 and 5 part time and 19 volunteers). Currently there are dormitories for the boys and girls, another building for orphans to learn computer skills, a library, and a meeting and study hall area. Also, special classes or programs are offered in how to avoid child abuse, staying away from drugs and alcohol, standing up to peer pressure - doing the right thing, a Butterfly project and a literacy program.*

*It also provides hostels attached to the institution for 20 senior students who are completing their last year in school while simultaneously taking higher education courses at polytechnic and Industrial Training Institutes in Nursing, Hotel Management, etc. Fifteen of the recent graduates have been completely rehabilitated and have settled into life with good jobs.*

*Other accomplishments of DKSHA: it reaches out to the people of 50 villages and hamlets in Manapparai, Vayaempathy, and Marungapuriare Blocks and has trained 6,900 marginal village farmers, both men and women, over a six-year period to be successful organic gardeners. Their training has increased food production, enriched their diet and increased their income by selling the excess in the markets.*

*Other conservation measures in the region under the guidance of DKSHA include tree planting, rain harvesting, soil preservation techniques and health camps with an emphasis on home remedies and herbal medicines, and financial assistance programs for agricultural development.*

*Simultaneously, over that same six-year period, Cornerstone has established night school programs in those same communities that have measurably raised the educational performance of over 18,000 children and adults. People in the villages near the Orphanage who simply struggle to survive would have little or no chance to go to school. Today's Indian orphan population is 210 million, half of whom are illiterate.*

*One more successful ongoing project: DKSHA is in partnership with one International famous eye Hospital namely "ARAVIND EYE HOSPITAL in MADURAI" Tamil Nadu, South India, performing Free Eye Screening Camps to invite the needy, the poorest of the poor, with eye problems from 65 rural, remote parts of DKSHA’s service area. Annually Eye Screening is provided for 281 - 340 persons who include children, young boys and girls, aged parents and grandparents. Out of this number 96 - 102 clients are given free surgery and follow up treatment. IOL and DKSHA are proud to report that 906 persons have had their vision restored in the past 9 years.*

*The local City Corporation, Tiruchirappalli, has recognized DKSHA Cornerstone as the “Best Organization” in the area.*

Quite a curriculum vitae!

At its meeting of June 2, 2018, the Committee passed the following resolutions:

1. That the International Assistance Committee approve funding of DKSHA on a trial basis in the form of a single application submitted to the June 2, 2018 meeting.
2. That the International Assistance Committee, on the basis of a successful transfer of funds to DKSHA in June 2018, lift the suspension of grants to India on a limited trial basis for the 2018-2019 school year.

The grant approved for DKSHA was for a school bore well project (see description for project
# 1718-192 below), and we have already received word that the funds have arrived safely in India, the water diviner has identified the water source (yes, they use an actual water diviner to locate the water!!!), and drilling has begun! We look forward to our continued collaboration with Isaac to support both DKSHA projects and others submitted by schools and NGOs in India in the coming year.

**Funded Projects**

The Committee considered a total of 193 requests this year; this is far fewer than in the recent past, due to the exclusion this year of all but one application from India. Of the 193 projects considered, we were able to approve funding to 125 projects, including two for water, which we approved under the UN Development Focus Funds, allocated to the Decade for Water (2018 – 2028). A complete list of the funded requests appears below. More in-depth summaries of all the received requests appear for the Governors’ reference in **Appendix H, pages H1 – H52**.

The funds available for disbursal this year came from the following sources:

* International Assistance Committee Budget for 2017-18 $77,000
* UN Development Fund $3,000
* Funds returned from India from previous years (stale dated money orders)
These funds could not be returned to the grant recipients due to challenges
with sending funds to India $720

**TOTAL: $80,720**

The following projects received funding during 2017-18:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | $500 to the Siyahluma Youth Development Project in Alice, South Africa, to empower and develop children and youth in art, craft and music skills. *(Proj. # 1718-5)* |
|  | $500 to the Masibambane Educare Centre in King William's Town, South Africa, to help provide for the education needs of 38 learners and 5 staff members from households where there is no income. *(Proj. # 1718-1718-6)* |
|  | $800 to the Masizame Training Centre in Mdantsane, Eastern Cape, South Africa, to help provide skill development in woodwork, sewing, beadwork, embroidery, gardening and cooking skills. The funds will be used to help train four care givers on disability issues, to purchase a television to be used for education purposes and outdoor equipment. *(Proj. # 1718-8)* |
|  | $500 for Sphiwo Simon Gunuza, a first-year student taking a post graduate diploma in Education Intermediate phase at the Cornerstone Institute in Salt River, South Africa. Funds will be used to help pay for books, laptop, teaching stationery, charts and USB device. *(Proj. # 1718-12)* |
|  | $500 to continue financial support for Eunice Sithole, currently a primary school teacher working towards her Bachelor of Science in Special Education at the Zimbabwe Open University. Funds will be used to help pay for school fees, modules, stationery, library, internet, research fees and transportation costs. *(Proj. # 1718-16)* |
|  | $500 to the Special and Gifted Children's Home in Quezon City, Philippines, to help purchase books, school supplies, shoes, bags, school project, and for tuition payments for 112 special and gifted children aged 9 - 18. *(Proj. # 1718-17)* |
|  | $500 to the Special Trust Fund for Abandoned Children organization in Quezon City, Philippines, to help purchase books, school supplies, uniforms, and other school requirements for 88 orphaned, neglected, abandoned, and voluntarily committed children aged 4 - 17. *(Proj. # 1718-19)* |
|  | $500 to the Philippine Foundation for the Blind in Manila, Philippines, to help support the educational needs for 50 blind and visually-impaired students aged 10 - 27. The funds will be used to purchase Braille books, large print books, talking books, to pay tuition fees, and for other school requirements. *(Proj. # 1718-20)* |
|  | $500 to St. James Montessori organization in Quezon City, Philippines, to help purchase books, school supplies, uniforms and school needs for 117 students from poverty-stricken families aged 9 - 17. *(Proj. # 1718-22)* |
|  | $500 to the Give-A-Gift-Foundation in Quezon City, Philippines, to help purchase books, school supplies, uniforms, shoes, and bags for 136 poor children aged 7 - 8. *(Proj. # 1718-23)* |
|  | $500 to the Haven for the Angels organization in Manila, Philippines, to help purchase books, school supplies, reading materials, and for tuition payments for 159 street children aged 10 - 16, providing them with a home and free education. *(Proj. # 1718-24)* |
|  | $500 to the St. Teresa's Foster Care Home in Antipolo City, Philippines, to help purchase books, school supplies, and uniforms for 84 abandoned, neglected and voluntarily committed children aged 5 - 15. *(Proj. # 1718-25)* |
|  | $500 to the Peace and Light Kindergarten Foundation in Quezon City, Philippines, to help purchase books, school supplies, uniforms, shoes, bags and school projects for 145 kindergarten and grade school students of poverty-stricken families, aged 6 - 14. *(Proj. # 1718-27)* |
|  | $500 to the Social Action for Abused Kids organization in Manila, Philippines, to help purchase educational materials for 113 women and children aged 12 - 19. The funds will be used to help purchase books, school supplies, materials for women taking vocational courses, and for tuition payments. *(Proj. # 1718-28)* |
|  | $500 to the Share a Book Mission organization in Quezon City, Philippines, to help purchase books, school supplies, tuition, and related school expenses for 99 students aged 10-17, whose parents cannot afford to send them to school due to extreme poverty. The remaining funds will be spent on the shipping of books to public school libraries where thousands of students will use them. *(Proj. # 1718-29)* |
|  | $500 to the Apoolo Na Angor organization in Mbale, Uganda, to help equip 132 students with employable skills such as tailoring and cookery, to enable them to become self-sustainable. The funds will be used to help purchase an electric cooker to be used by catering trainees most of whom are girls and single mothers who dropped out of school due to early marriages and therefore extreme poverty conditions. *(Proj. # 1718-31)* |
|  | $500 to the Save Our Children in Dumps project in Antipolo City, Philippines, to help purchase books, school supplies, school projects, shoes, bags, uniforms, tuition fees and miscellaneous expenses for 294 students aged 8 - 10, whose families' source of livelihood is to gather old newspapers, empty bottles, plastics, carton boxes, and anything they can sell in junk shops. *(Proj. # 1718-32)* |
|  | $500 to continue financial support for Tapiwa Olivia Mukoko, currently a primary school teacher, in Mutare, Zimbabwe, to pursue her Masters in Special Education at the Zimbabwe Open University. *(Proj. # 1718-34)* |
|  | $500 to the Jasmin Child Development Center in Antipolo City, Philippines, to help purchase books, school supplies, and tuition fees for 130 high school students aged 17 - 18 who want to finish their high school education. *(Proj. # 1718-35)* |
|  | $500 to the RMM Sanctuary for Male Youth Offenders in Antipolo City, Philippines, to help purchase books, school supplies, uniforms, and to pay tuition fees for 103 male youth offenders aged 10 - 18. *(Proj. # 1718-36)* |
|  | $500 to the Christian Children Mission organization in Manila, Philippines, to help purchase books, school supplies, and tuition fees for 104 bright students aged 8 - 19, who come from poor families. *(Proj. # 1718-37)* |
|  | $500 to the Baredo Superlearning Centre for Poor Children in Antipolo City, Philippines, to help purchase books, school supplies, school projects, garden tools and equipment for 150 grade school and high school students aged 9 - 16. *(Proj. # 1718-39)* |
|  | $2,000 to Canadian Physicians for Aid and Relief (CPAR) in Malawi, Africa, to help implement a series of education activities proven to improve existing sanitation facilities, improve hygiene behaviour by promoting knowledge and education on safe hygiene practices, and help communities reach Open Defecation Free status. Over 200 villages and 18,000 primary school students are estimated to benefit from this project. *(Proj. # 1718-40) -* UN DEVELOPMENT FOCUS FUNDS |
|  | $500 to the Good Heart Day Care Center in Antipolo City, Philippines, to help purchase books, school supplies and materials, uniforms, shoes, and bags for 225 preschoolers aged 6 year old. *(Proj. # 1718-41)* |
|  | $500 to the Golden Care Homes foundation in Manilla, Philippines, to help purchase books, school supplies, materials, and tuition fees for 150 children of poverty-stricken families who are 9 - 19 years old. *(Proj. # 1718-42)* |
|  | $500 to the Home of Hope for Children in Quezon City, Philippines, to help purchase books, school supplies, uniforms, shoes, bags, school projects and payment of tuition fees for 110 children with developmental disabilities aged 11 - 19. *(Proj. # 1718-43)* |
|  | $500 to the Benevolent Foster Home Program in Antipolo City, Philippines, to help purchase books, school supplies, and other school needs for 144 students aged 6 - 14. *(Proj. # 1718-45)* |
|  | $500 to the Messenger of Hope for Children foundation in Antipolo City, Philippines, to help purchase books, school supplies, bags, shoes, uniforms and tuition fees for 192 students who are between the ages of 9 and 19. *(Proj. # 1718-46)* |
|  | $500 to the Child Protection Foundation in Quezon City, Philippines, to help purchase books, personal computers, school supplies, tuition, school uniforms, shoes, and bags for 247 out of school youth aged 6 - 17. *(Proj. # 1718-47)* |
|  | $500 to the De Jesus School for Autistic Children in Antipolo City, Philippines, to help purchase personal computers, books, school supplies, shoes and bags for 87 autistic abandoned and neglected children aged 8 - 21. Funds will also be used to rebuild the children's classroom after it was devastated by a strong typhoon years ago. *(Proj. # 1718-48)* |
|  | $500 to the "No Child Left Behind" program of the Home of Refuge Foundation in Manila, Philippines, to help purchase books, school supplies, and tuition fees for 229 students aged 8 - 18. *(Proj. # 1718-49)* |
|  | $500 to My Shelter Foundation in Quezon City, Philippines, to help purchase books, school supplies, uniforms, shoes, bags, miscellaneous school fees and matriculation fees for 210 grade school students aged 9 - 14, who are street children, orphaned, neglected and whose parents cannot send them to school due to extreme poverty. *(Proj. # 1718-50)* |
|  | $500 to the Good Samaritan Educational Mission in Quezon City, Philippines, to help purchase books, school supplies, uniforms, shoes, bags, and other school materials for 128 elementary students aged 11 - 15. *(Proj. # 1718-51)* |
|  | $700 to the S.H.A.R.E. Agriculture Foundation in Sarstun area of eastern Guatemala, to help with the Eco Stoves for Guatemalan School Nutrition Program which is providing eco stoves to the 12 schools in the surrounding 12 communities. The funds will be used to help purchase and install eco stoves to be used at each of the schools to cook lunch to support the school nutrition program. *(Proj. # 1718-52)* |
|  | $500 for Miriam Rujeko Gondo, currently a primary school teacher doing her Masters in Special Education at the Zimbabwe Open University. Funds will be used to help pay for school fees, transportation, project typing and binding and stationery. *(Proj. # 1718-53)* |
|  | $2,000 to support the Horizons of Friendship "Strengthening the Development of Youth in the Communities of Lower Lempa" project, which will directly benefit at risk children and youth across 29 communities in Lower Lempa, El Salvador. Funds will be used to help provide continuance of music and soccer programs as well as leadership workshops benefitting children as young as 6 to 18. *(Proj. # 1718-54)* |
|  | $500 to the Central Africa Diocese Coptic Orthodox Church Bishopric of Central African Affair, located in Nairobi, Kenya, to help provide school uniforms and local curriculum books, benefiting 200 orphan children aged 5 to 18 years who completely rely on the church for all their needs including their education. *(Proj. # 1718-55)* |
|  | $500 to the Shoubra El-Kheima Diocese Coptic Orthodox Church, located in Bahteem, Cairo, Egypt, to help provide school uniforms and local curriculum books, benefiting 300 orphan children aged 5 to 18 years. *(Proj. # 1718-56)* |
|  | $500 to the Southern Africa Diocese Coptic Orthodox Church, located in Park View, Johannesburg, South Africa, to help provide school uniforms and local curriculum books, benefiting 180 orphan children aged 5 to 18 years in Accra, Ghana. *(Proj. # 1718-57)* |
|  | $500 to the Central Africa Diocese Coptic Orthodox Church, located in Nairobi, Kenya, to help provide school uniforms and local curriculum books, benefiting 160+ orphan children aged 5 to 18 years. *(Proj. # 1718-58)* |
|  | $500 to the Shoubra El-Kheima Diocese Coptic Orthodox Church, located in Cairo, Egypt, to help provide school uniforms and local curriculum books, benefiting 300+ orphan children aged 5 to 18 years in Mostorod, Kaliobeya, Egypt. *(Proj. # 1718-59)* |
|  | $500 to the Shoubra El-Kheima Diocese Coptic Orthodox Church, located in Cairo, Egypt, to help provide school uniforms and local curriculum books, benefiting 300+ orphan children aged 5 to 18 years. *(Proj. # 1718-60)* |
|  | $500 to the Southern Africa Diocese Coptic Orthodox Church, located in Park View, Johannesburg, South Africa, to help provide school uniforms and local curriculum books, benefiting 200+ orphan children aged 5 to 18 years in Harare, Zimbabwe. *(Proj. # 1718-61)* |
|  | $500 to the Central Africa Diocese Coptic Orthodox Church, located in Nairobi, Kenya,to help provide school uniforms and local curriculum books, benefiting 130+ orphan children aged 5 to 18 years in Lusaka, Zambia. *(Proj. # 1718-62)* |
|  | $500 to the Central Africa Dioces of Coptic Orthodox Church, in Nairobi, Kenya to help provide school uniforms and local curriculum books, benefiting 140+ orphan children aged 5 to 18 years in Der es Salaam, Tanzania. *(Proj. # 1718-63)* |
|  | $500 to the Southern Africa Diocese Coptic Orthodox Church located in Park View, Johannesburg, South Africa, to help provide school uniforms and local curriculum books, benefiting 210+ orphan children aged 5 to 18 years. *(Proj. # 1718-64)* |
|  | $500 to the Center of Hope in Manila, Philippines, to help purchase books, school supplies, uniforms, shoes, bags, and tuition fees for 154 poor children aged 9 - 18 who are mostly close relatives of the Hansenites. *(Proj. # 1718-65)* |
|  | $500 to the Progressive School Foundation in Quezon City, Philippines, to help purchase books, school supplies, uniforms, shoes, and bags for 101 kindergarten and school students aged 6 - 16. *(Proj. # 1718-68)* |
|  | $1,000 to help support the "Rainforest of Reading St. Lucia" project of the OneWorld Schoolhouse Foundation. This project provides books for classrooms in countries where school and community libraries are non-existent or in extreme disrepair. Funds will be used to help purchase books for every primary school in the country, which include a total of 8,000 students who are 8 - 10 years old in Grades 3 - 5 and 400 teachers. *(Proj. # 1718-69)* |
|  | $500 to the Friendship for Polio Victims Center in Antipolo City, Philippines, to help purchase books, school supplies and for tuition payments for 87 polio-stricken children aged 15 - 19. *(Proj. # 1718-70)* |
|  | $500 to the "Sharing the Dream" project of the Building Hope for Children Foundation in Manila, Philippines, to help purchase books, school supplies, uniforms, and tuition fees for 191 grade school and high school students aged 9 - 18. *(Proj. # 1718-71)* |
|  | $500 to Projet Terre in Kisangani, Congo, to support 12 PD initiatives at the Complexe Scolaire Bahia, a school attended by 387 students aged 6 – 15, and staffed by 20 teachers, and 4 workers. The 12 PD initiatives are:support for organization of democratic unions in schools;1. promotion and protection of the rights of unions in education;
2. defense and support for oppressed groups including youth people and women;
3. improving the quality of teaching according to the education system in the Congo;
4. awareness of the dangers of mines and other explosive devices in a school setting;
5. support for the education of handicapped and orphaned children who are victims of war;
6. support for teacher's pedagogical meetings;
7. preventing violence and sexual abuse at school;
8. support for evaluation of pedagogical activities of teachers and students;
9. equal opportunities for girls and boys at school;
10. classroom management by the teacher; and
11. classroom visits.

Project #6, 8 and 10 were supported in 2016/17. *(Proj. # 1718-72)* |
|  | $500 to the Human Service Trust Academy in Cape Coast, Ghana, to help provide text books, exercise books and pens for 180 students between the ages of 7 and 15 years, and 21 staff. *(Proj. # 1718-74)* |
|  | $500 to the Vital Elements Community Welfare Services in Pakistan, to support the Pehchan Learning Academy (PLA) which is a project being run by a partner organization - Youngson Community Organization (YCO) to support 18 children between the ages of 6 and 11. Funds will be used to he-lp puchase a teacher's desk and chair, 18 sitting stools for the children, an electric fan for the summer season, black and white board and school supplies. *(Proj. # 1718-75)* |
|  | $500 to CanAssist African Relief Trust in Lake Victoria, in Isiri Village, Kenya, to help purchase books, dictionaries, atlases, songbooks and teachers' curriculum guides for 145 students aged 3 - 11 and 7 teachers at S.P. Geddes School. *(Proj. # 1718-77)* |
|  | $500 to CanAssist African Relief Trust in Siaya County, Kenya, to help purchase grammar, Math, Science and History text books, dictionaries, atlases, song books, and teachers' curriculum guides for 315 students and 9 teachers at St. Catherine's School. *(Proj. # 1718-78)* |
|  | $500 to CanAssist African Relief Trust in Siaya Region, Kenya, to help purchase grammar, Math, Science and History text books, dictionaries, atlases, songbooks and teachers' curriculum guides for 617 students between the ages of 6 and 16 and 9 teachers at Ojwaya Primary School *(Proj. # 1718-79)* |
|  | $500 to 18-year-old Lilian Dzimano, who is in her first year of two and studying advanced level Sciences (i.e. Math, Chemistry and Biology) at Mutare Teachers College Preparatory School in Zimbabwe. The funds will assist with the expenses of school fees, textbooks, library fees, transportation and acommodations. *(Proj. # 1718-80)* |
|  | $500 to Zamba Primary School in Mutare, Zimbabwe, to help purchase a television set, DVD player, toys, games and educational material for 30 students between the ages of 9 and 21 years, who are mentally challenged. *(Proj. # 1718-82)* |
|  | $500 for the Lingelethu Care Child Centre in Alice, South Africa, to help with the centre's renovations, to help purchase education equipment, toys, uniforms and furniture. The centre provides meals and helps to develop 30 children aged 0-4 years (20 boys and 10 girls) emotionally, intellectually and socially. (Proj. #1718-83) |
|  | $500 to the Golden Harvest Learning Foundation in Quezon City, Philippines, to help purchase books, school supplies, materials and tuition fees for 505 students aged 8 - 18, whose parents cannot send them to school due to extreme poverty. *(Proj. # 1718-84)* |
|  | $500 to the House of Children for Preparatory School organization in Quezon City, Philippines, to help purchase books, school supplies, and uniforms for 148 pre-schoolers aged 5 - 6. *(Proj. # 1718-85)* |
|  | $500 to the Power of Christ Center in Manila, Philippines, to help purchase books, reading materials, school supplies, uniforms, shoes, and bags for 105 pre-school children aged 4-5, whose parents cannot afford to send them to school. *(Proj. # 1718-88)* |
|  | $500 to the St. Agnes Home for Battered Women and Children in Manila, Philippines, to help support the educational needs of 182 battered women and children aged 7 - 26. The funds will be used to help purchase books, school supplies, school materials, and make tuition payments for those in high school and vocational school. *(Proj. # 1718-89)* |
|  | $1,000 to help support CTF's work with the Uganda National Teachers' Union, which aims to moblize two large communities in the Central Region of Uganda. Through a respectful process of presentation and discussion, community members are challenged to write a book in English that profiles the communities. From this experience of collective agency beyond their expectations, the community identifies strengths and needs, writes and implements action plans to meet those needs, and learns advocacy strategies which they employ on behalf of their community and their children's schooling. *(Proj. # 1718-90)* |
|  | $1,000 to help support CTF's work with six schools in the Western Region of Ghana. As part of the Gender Sensitization project, students from the schools in the community provide dramatizations depicting roadblocks to girls' education and of the negative effects of gender-based violence. They also dramatize the positive effects of gender friendly schools and communities. Other aspects of the sensitization help the community see their community through a gender lens, and then develop action plans for improvement. *(Proj. # 1718-91)* |
|  | $1,000 to help support CTF's work with Professional Development Facilitators in Sierra Leone. These facilitators, who are all teacher members of SLTU, have received extensive training in providing PD workshops and mentoring. A manual for these facilitators has been drafted and piloted and is about to be revised and further piloted before the final version wil be printed and bound in 2018. The PD Facilitators make visits to schools that are receiving support in the program. *(Proj. # 1718-92)* |
|  | $2,000 to the CODE Reading Liberia 20/20 and Reading Sierra Leone 20/20 projects in Liberia and Sierra Leone. These projects focus on improving the skills of upper primary (Grade 4-6) school teachers, librarians and school administrators in Sierra Leone and Grade 1 – 6 teachers, librarians, and school administrators in reading and writing instruction and promotion of literacy in thoughtful and child-centered ways in Liberia. *(Proj. # 1718-93)* |
|  | $500 for Zenda Sekai, who is enrolled in the B.Ed. Program in Early Childhood Development at the Zimbabwe Open University. Funds will be used to help pay for school fees, stationery and transportation costs. *(Proj. # 1718-96)* |
|  | $554 for the Children of Hope Uganda in Lira, Uganda, to help purchase scholastic materials, instructional materials, and games/sports items and to pay examination costs for 100 students and 3 teachers. The students are between the ages of 2 and 7. (Proj. #1718-99) |
|  | $500 for Projet Terre in Kisangani, Congo, to help support a three-month long workshop to train 2,000 girls and women on the issue of sexual abuse. (Proj. #1718-113) |
|  | $1,000 for the Rape Hurts Foundation (RHF) in Busoga, Eastern Uganda, to help support victims of rape. The organization empowers child-headed families, trains youth on sexual reproductive health, empowers families headed by grandmothers, documents, researches and exposes cases of rape, trains villages in WASH (access to water and sanitation), plants trees and creates demonstration farms. (Proj. #1718-114) |
|  | $1,000 for Apoolo Na Angor in Mbale, Uganda, to help with the construction of pit latrines for 300 children, 20 teachers and 5,000 women and men attending community training in adult education. (Proj. #1718-116) |
|  | $600 for the Joy Orphanage Center in Antipolo City, Philippines, to help provide books, school supplies, uniforms, shoes, and bags for 733 orphaned students aged 8 to 16 years. (Proj. #1718-120) |
|  | $600 for the Teaching Learning Caring Foundation in Quezon City, Philippines, to help support the education of approximately 1,200 mountain people. Funds will be used to help build makeshift structures to be used as classrooms, to purchase books, school supplies, shoes, bags mono-block chairs and tables, blackboards and other school needs for students from the ages of 6 to 36. (Proj. #1718-121) |
|  | $600 for SCG Rehabilitation for the Handicapped in Antipolo City, Philippines, to help provide books, school supplies, school materials and cover tuition expenses for 103 students who are disabled and paraplegic, and who are between the ages of 17 and 25 years. (Proj. #1718-122) |
|  | $600 for The Kids Foundation, Inc. in Quezon City, Philippines, to help provide school supplies, books, reading materials, tuition fees, shoes, bags and other school essentials for 239 extremely poor students aged 8 to 16 years. (Proj. #1718-123) |
|  | $600 for the Books for the Underprivileged Children Program in Antipolo City, Philippines, to rent a 20-foot container van to deliver books to about 100 public school libraries, benefitting hundreds of thousands of children studying in public schools who are 6 to 18 years old. (Proj. #1718-124) |
|  | $500 for the New Birth Orphanage in Antipolo City, Philippines, to help provide books, school supplies, reading materials, uniforms, shoes, bags, and other school expenses for 101 orphans aged 7 to 16 years. (Proj. #1718-125) |
|  | $600 for the Give Back Education Foundation in Quezon City, Philippines, to help purchase books, school supplies and for tuition expenses for 158 high school students aged 14 to 16 years. (Proj. #1718-126) |
|  | $500 for the Marciano N. Lopez - Free Preparatory Educational Program in Manila, Philippines, to help pay for school supplies, books, uniforms, shoes and bags for 138 poor, pre-school children aged 4 and 5 years. (Proj. #1718-127) |
|  | $600 for the LCS Band of Mercy in Quezon City, Philippines, to help in the education of physically disfigured children by helping with the purchase of books, school supplies and tuition payments for 99 children aged 7 to 16 years who were born with birth defects that can be corrected by surgery. (Proj. #1718-129) |
|  | $600 for the Foundation for the Abandoned in Manila, Philippines, to help provide books, school supplies, materials and to help pay tuition expenses for 101 abandoned children aged 8 to 18 years. (Proj. #1718-130) |
|  | $600 for the Academic Enhancement Mission Program in Quezon City, Philippines, to help provide books, school supplies, uniforms, shoes, bags and related school requirements for 270 pre-schoolers, whose parents cannot send them to school due to extreme poverty. (Proj. #1718-131) |
|  | $600 for the Apex on Early Childhood Education in Quezon City, Philippines, to help provide books, school supplies, uniforms, bags, and shoes for 184 pre-schoolers aged 5 to 6 years, whose families are poverty sticken and cannot afford to send them to school. (Proj. #1718-132) |
|  | $500 for the Childhope Philippines Foundation in Quezon City, Philippines, to help provide books, reading materials, school supplies, shoes, bags, uniforms, and to cover payment of tuition fees for 215 students aged 7 to 14 years. Some of the Childhope's programs include counselling, alternative basic education, mobile health clinic, financial education program, vocational training, skills development, development of leadership and organizational capabilities. (Proj. #1718-133) |
|  | $600 for Mercy Childhood Care in Manila, Philippines, to help provide books, school supplies, tuition fees, uniforms, shoes, and bags for 150 students aged 10 to 16 years. (Proj. #1718-134) |
|  | $500 for the Build Schools Foundation in Quezon City, Philippines, to help provide books, school supplies, uniforms, shoes, bags and tuition payments for 205 pre-schoolers aged 5 and 6 years. (Proj. #1718-135) |
|  | $500 for the St. Catherine Academy in Quezon City, Philippines, to help provide books, school supplies, tuition payments and other school needs for 158 students aged 10 to 19 years. These students are poor, bright and talented children who passed the rigid examinations and evaluations and come from impoverised families who cannot send them to school due to poverty. (Proj. #1718-136) |
|  | $1,000 for the Friends of Honduran Children in Honduras, to help purchase ESL workbooks and textbooks of various levels for 100 to 150 children at the Nuevo Paraiso Orphanage who are primary school age up to the age of 18. These books will allow the children the opportunity to continue with further levels of the English as a Second Language program offered on the orphanage grounds. (Proj. #1718-138) |
|  | $500 for the Hansenites Care Mission in Antipolo City, Philippines, to help provide books, office supplies, reading materials, tuition, uniforms, shoes, and bags for 70 children or relatives of the Hansenites aged 5 to 19 years. (Proj. #1718-139) |
|  | $500 for the Rescue the Abandoned Amerasians Project in Antipolo City, Philippines, to help purchase books, school supplies and tuition fees for 92 (75 males and 17 females) Amerasian high school and college students aged 18 to 29 years. (Proj. #1718-140) |
|  | $600 for St. Ignatius Montessori School in Quezon City, Philippines, to help provide books, reading materials, children's uniforms, shoes, bags and school supplies, benefiting 89 students (44 boys and 45 girls) aged 3 to 6 years. (Proj. #1718-141) |
|  | $600 for the Fountain of Knowledge Foundation in Quezon City, Philippines, to help provide books, school supplies, uniforms, shoes and bags for 483 (334 boys and 149 girls) kindergarten students aged 5 to 6 years. (Proj. #1718-142) |
|  | $600 for the STAR (Stand Together And Rise) project of the Sincerity Day Care Center in Antipolo City, Philippines, to help provide books, school supplies, materials, uniforms, shoes and bags for 220 (133 girls and 87 boys) pre-schooler street children who are 3 to 5 years old. (Proj. #1718-143) |
|  | $500 for the Children of Jesus School in Quezon City, Philippines, to help provide books, school supplies, uniforms, shoes, bags and tuition fees for 547 (324 boys and 223 girls) students aged 6 to 16 years. Beginning this new school year, high school students must complete six years instead of only four years due to a new program being launched by the government known as the K-12 Program. Therefore, not a single one of the high school students will be able to graduate this current year as they will need to stay in high school for an additional two years. (Proj. #1718-144) |
|  | $500 for the Great Knowledge Learning Center in Manila, Philippines, to help provide books, school supplies, uniforms, shoes, bags and tuition expenses for 359 street children (233 boys and 126 girls) aged 3 to 16 years. (Proj. #1718-146) |
|  | $1,000 to continue supporting the TEMBO Trust organization whose mandate is to provide education and empowerment for girls and women in Longido District in northern Tanzania. Funds will help purchase 60 copies of Math and English syllabus books, English-Kiswahili dictionaries and related teaching materials benefitting 60 adolescent girls aged 12 to 15 years who face significant barriers to education as they transition from primary to secondary school, four secondary school teachers and six local women. (Proj. #1718-147) |
|  | $600 for the Eusebio Sweet Homes Orphanage in Antipolo City, Philippines, to help provide books, school supplies, uniforms, shoes, bags, and tuition fees for 178 orphans (95 males and 83 females) aged 11 to 16 years and abused women who are victims of prostitution. (Proj. #1718-148) |
|  | $500 for the Caring for Children with Special Needs organization in Quezon City, Philippines, to help provide books, reading materials, school supplies, uniforms, shoes, bags, and tuition fees for 112 children (82 boys and 30 girls) with autism aged 12 to 19 years. (Proj. #1718-149) |
|  | $600 for the Cruz Foster Home for Orphaned and Abandoned Children in Manila, Philippines, to help with the purchase of books, uniforms, school supplies, tuition fee payments, shoes, bags and related shool needs for 213 students (114 boys and 99 girls) aged 8 to 16 years. (Proj. #1718-150) |
|  | $500 for the Vessels of Love project by Save the Children Village Study Center in Antipolo City, Philippines, to help provide books, school supplies, shoes, bags, and tuition fees for 104 abandoned, neglected and orphaned children (88 boys and 16 girls) aged 13 to 16 years. The Save the Children Village Study Center is an organization that provides a house for children in conflict with the law and offers temporary care and comfort to youth offenders, aiming to remove them from a world of crime. (Proj. #1718-151) |
|  | $500 for the Tender & Loving Care Pre-School & Kindergarten in Antipolo City, Philippines, to help provide books, school supplies and materials, uniforms, shoes, bags, and related school expenses for 330 street children (208 boys and 122 girls) aged 4 to 5 years. (Proj. #1718-152) |
|  | $500 for the God's Little Kingdom Foundation in Quezon City, Philippines, to help pay tuition fees for high school students, and to help provide books, reading materials, and school supplies for the pre-school and grade school needs for 98 (59 females and 39 males) physically challenged, orphans, neglected and abandoned children aged 6 to 16 years. (Proj. #1718-155) |
|  | $1,114 for the Mission for African Mothers in Kampala, Uganda, to help purchase training facilitations, white board, writing marker pens, note books, pens, t-shirts, printed teacher empowerment manuals and brochures, project flyer and printing certificates for participants. There are 100 female student teachers from St. Mary's Primary Teachers' College in Bukedea district, Eastern Uganda, who are between the ages of 18 and 25 years old. This project seeks to empower student teachers to fundamentally re-imagine their role in leading change in their classrooms and schools through bringing about a teacher-led movement for change leading to improved children's leading. (Proj. #1718-157) |
|  | $500 for Chico's Deaf Center in Antipolo City, Philippines, to help purchase computers, printers, ink, bond paper, school supplies and to help cover tuition expenses for 153 children (105 boys and 48 girls) with hearing impairements aged 14 - 16 years. (Proj. #1718-158) |
|  | $600 for the Alonte Caregiving Services in Antipolo City, Philippines, to help pay for tuition fees and to help with the purchase of books, school supplies, and school projects for 144 children and adults (99 boys and 45 girls) with special needs aged 14 to 32 years. (Proj. #1718-160) |
|  | $1,000 for the Helping Hands Mission for Poor Children in Quezon City, Philippines, for 'Project Education' and 'Project Books' to provide books for public school libraries across the country, benefitting 100,000+ poor students. The project collects books from various sectors and groups and then distributes them before the opening of classes in June. (Proj. #1718-162) |
|  | $600 for the Guiding Eyes for the Girls' Welfare Home in Antipolo City, Philippines, to help pay for tuition fees, books, school supplies, uniforms for 165 girls from 9 to 17 years. These young girls are troubled and suffering from chaotic situations and abuse and are in grade school, high school and college. (Proj. #1718-166) |
|  | $600 for the Thembeka Child & Youth Centre in Mdantsane, South Africa, to help purchase educational toys for 60 children aged 0 to 5 years. The children are from disadvantaged areas where most of the parents are not working and they survive with the child support grants and their grandmothers' pension. (Proj. #1718-167) |
|  | $600 for the Yhawe Centre for the Disable in King Williams Town, South Africa, to help purchase sewing machines, fabric, wool, glue, shoe soles, office equipment (printer, computers, wireless telephone) for 40 students aged 16 years and above and 5 teachers. The Centre observed that existing Special Schools had an age restriction of 18 years old and once a student reached this age they were no longer admitted to the school. The Centre gathered these students with the sole purpose of equiping them with crucial and essential skills that will give them economic freedom. (Proj. #1718-169) |
|  | $500 for Edwin R. Muikoko, who is enrolled at the Zimbabwe Open University (ZOU) doing his Bachelor of Science (Agriculture) Management degree. He currently is an Agriculture teacher to secondary school students who are between the ages of 14-19. Funds will be used to help pay for school fees, stationery, transportation costs and library costs. (Proj. #1718-172) |
|  | $600 for the Gift of Love for Underprivileged Children in Quezon City, Philippines, to help provide books, school supplies, reading materials, tuition fees, uniforms, shoes, and bags, for 135 students (98 boys and 37 girls) aged 8 to 16 years. (Proj. #1718-174) |
|  | $600 for the Gift of Smile for Children with Harelip and Cleft Palate organization in Antipolo, Philippines, to help with the purchase of school supplies, textbooks and to pay tuition fees for 146 children (90 boys and 56 girls) with harelip and cleft palates aged 10 to 16 years. (Proj. #1718-176) |
|  | $1,000 for the Siyazama Educare Centre in King Williams Town, South Africa, to help with the expense of renovating the centre and purchasing equipment - such as a stove, fridge, computer, microwave - for 36 children aged 0 to 5 years. The centre is a non-profit organization and is the only centre that provides care and comprehensive support to children in early childhood development in this disadvantaged area. (Proj. #1718-178) |
|  | $2,000 for the "Tree planting and environmental education at Nyamilanda Primary School" project of the Action for Ngono Basin Reforestation (ACT NGONO) in Mwanza, Tanzania, to help purchase 5,000 fruit, timber and medicinal tree seedlings and transportation of the tree seedlings to the school. The trees will be planted at the school where 800 pupils and 10 teachers will participate in environmental educational activities and a daylong training workshop on the functions of trees, the importance of forests, climate change, how to identify the quality of a tree, proper techniques for seedbed preparation, irrigation, pest management and nursing of trees. (Proj. #1718-181) |
|  | $2,000 for the "Tree planting and environmental education at Kanyeranyere Primary School" project of the Action for Ngono Basin Reforestation (ACT NGONO) in Mwanza, Tanzania, to help purchase 5,000 tree seedlings and transportation of the tree seedlings to the school. The trees will be planted at the school where a workshop will be held for 45 students, two teachers and two parents to train them in growing tees for sustainable agriculture, economic value of tree planting, the role of trees in mitigating climate change, tree management and action planning. At the end of the workshop, a club will be formed and formulate an action plan for the rest of the year. A fourteen page magazine will be published, which will include content driven by the students on matters involving environmental education such as poems, reports and wildlife drawings. (Proj. #1718-182) |
|  | $1,000 for the Action for Ngono Basin Reforestation (ACT NGONO) in Mwanza, Tanzania, to help purchase materials for the construction of five stance VIP latrines for 400 girls and 15 teachers at the Itunzi Primary School. The school currently has no latrines. (Proj. #1718-183) *-* UN DEVELOPMENT FOCUS FUNDS |
|  | $600 for the Sophumelela Nathi Pre-School in King Williams Town, Eastern Cape, South Africa, to help purchase materials to build an extention on the building, to make a secure fence, to help purchase indoor and outdoor play equipment, and office equipment for 35 learners from 0 to 5 years old and office staff. (Proj. #1718-184) |
|  | $500 for the Matolweni ECDC in Matolweni, South Africa, to help purchase toys for 38 children aged 1 to 4 years. (Proj. #1718-185) |
|  | $600 for a group of students at the Kuwadzana High 1 School in Harare, Zimbabwe, to help purchase a laptop and some text books for 5 students aged 13 and 15 years. (Proj. #1718-187) |
|  | $500 for the Chitete Primary School in Magunje, Zimbabwe, to help purchase English library books for 300 students aged 7 to 14 years and seven teachers. The school is not well equipped for proper and conducive learning and these books will improve the learners' level of understanding of English since it is the main medium of instruction in Zimbabwean schools. (Proj. #1718-188) |
|  | $500 for 15 year old Rudo Mzondiwa, to help pay for tuition fees at the Kuwadzana High 1 School in Harare, Zimbabwe. Rudo’s father is a teacher, compelled to work in a private school in South Africa, as his meagre wages there are higher than what he can earn at home in Zimbabwe, but he still is unable to afford Rudo’s school and examination fees required for next year. (Proj. #1718-189) |
|  | $1,145 for Deva Kirubai Social Help Association (DKSHA) to help provide safe drinking water by the installation of a bore well at St. Joseph's Primary School in Tamil Nadu, India. The beneficiaries of this project are 245 children (142 boys and 103 girls) from 5 to 10 years of age in 1st Grade to 5th Grade. (Proj. #1718-192) |
|  | $1,507 to supplement the Ontario-Lesotho Educational Sustaining Fund. (Proj. #1718-193) |

**TOTAL DISBURSED: $80,720**

**Summary of Countries of Origin for Funded Projects**

The funded projects were located in the following countries:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Country** | **# of Funded Projects** |  | **Country** | **# of Funded Projects** |
| CongoEgyptEl SalvadorGhanaGuatemalaHondurasIndiaKenyaLesothoLiberia | 2313111511 |  | MalawiPakistanPhilippinesSierra LeoneSouth AfricaSt LuciaTanzaniaUgandaZambiaZimbabwe | 1168211156111 |

**TOTAL NUMBER OF COUNTRIES: 20**

**Trust Funds**

In addition to the above, the Committee also continued its work as the trustees of the Ontario Lesotho Educational Sustaining Fund and the Blanche E. Snell Fund.

Blanche E. Snell Estate Fund

As the Governors will recall, the purpose of the Blanche Snell Fund is to provide an educational opportunity for foreign students or educators who are enrolled in an educational institution in Canada and who indicate their intention of returning to their own countries to work within an educational environment. Grants are made from the accrued interest in the fund.

This year, two grants were approved from the Fund as follows:

* $750 to Chulie Liu, student from China, enrolled in a Master of Education program at the University of Windsor, to assist with tuition and living costs.
* $800 to Joane Leno, teacher candidate from Cameroon, enrolled in a B.Ed. program at Ottawa University, to cover costs of a “Teach in French in Ontario” workshop.

Ontario Lesotho Educational Sustaining Fund (OLEF)

The intent of this fund is to assist needy students in Lesotho to pursue their education, particularly for those who indicate an interest in teacher training. This year, the amount available for disbursement to Lesotho from OLEF was only $464.06. As it has done in previous years when interest rates have led to a meagre amount of funding, the Committee decided to supplement this amount with monies from the International Assistance Fund. In total, $1,9701.06 was sent to the *Centre Missionaire Oblat* in Montreal, which is our conduit for sending funds to Lesotho.

**Final Remarks**

I sometimes jokingly compare people I know with Mother Teresa. It is a kind of shorthand I use to explain to others how extremely kind or extremely unselfish a colleague or acquaintance or friend or family member is. I say, “You know Mother Teresa, well think Mother Teresa and you will know what my sister is like.”

Among the many inspirational quotes attributed to Mother Teresa, here are some words that continue to move me:

*Peace begins with a smile.*

*Spread love everywhere you go. Let no one ever come to you without leaving happier.*

*If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other.*

Mother Teresa worked unrelentingly to improve the lives of the poor in general, but in India in particular. We are pleased that in the year ahead we will be able to resume support for India and demonstrate to teachers and students there that we have not forgotten that “we belong to each other.”

I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the tremendous contribution of Fatma Ibrahim, who is leaving the Committee after 13 years of service. Fatma has been an enlightened and passionate member of the Committee, who has helped guide a great number of our decisions, providing particular expertise on the Middle East, since she was born in Egypt. Over the years, Fatma has fervently defended the requests received from those who have most needed our support, always bringing her special brand of persuasion, empathy, and humour to the table. She has served as a respected leader at the table and will be greatly missed by all of us.

As always, we thank the Governors for recognizing the importance of our ongoing activities in international assistance once again this year. The Committee members feel privileged and honoured to be part of this noble endeavour on behalf of the Federation.

Sean Roberts, Chairperson

International Assistance Committee

**Committee Members**

Alphonse Yongoua AEFO

Fatma Ibrahim ETFO

Sean Roberts OECTA (Chair)

Glen Hodgson OSSTF